

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03251 011528Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 /027 W
-----025281 012231Z /75

R 011430Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3251

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH U.S. OFFICIAL

REF: 3250 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL EXPLAINS CREDENTIALS OF RSA JOURNALIST GEOFF SIMS WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 15-19 AND NEW YORK JULY 19-21. SIMS WAS ONE OF TWO INTERVIEWERS LINED UP BY SABC-TV FOR PROPOSED INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG DURING HIS MAY VISIT TO JOHANNESBURG. EMBASSY FEELS GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO AFFECT ATTITUDES IN THIS COUNTRY WAS MISSED BY PASSING UP CHANCE TO GET AMBASSADOR YOUNG INTO RSA LIVINGROOMS VIA THE BOX.

2. SIMS IS COMPETENT INTERVIEWER WHO KNOWS HIS SUBJECT AND IS FAST ON HIS FEET. HIS 1976 RADIO INTERVIEW WITH PM VORSTER WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE TOUGHEST VORSTER HAS EVER FACED IN RSA, WITH SIMS POSING INCISIVE QUESTIONS IN OTHER THAN THE NORMALLY OBSEQUIOUS MANNER OF RSA JOURNALISTS.
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3. AMBASSADOR AND COUNTRY TEAM AGREE TV INTERVIEW WITH EITHER AMBASSADOR YOUNG, VP MONDALE OR ASS'T SECRETARY MOOSE WOULD BE EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY TO ARTICULATE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY GOALS TO RSA PUBLIC, AGAIN HITTING THEM IN THEIR LIVING ROOMS. EMBASSY PROPOSES AGENCY INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP SUCH AN INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE

ABOVE DURING SIM'S VISIT. HE WOULD ASK THE QUESTIONS.

4. BPAO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF INTERVIEW WITH SIMS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON JULY 1. NO COMMITMENT MADE ON THIS END THAT SUCH AN INTERVIEW COULD COME OFF, BUT SIMS RAISED MATTER WITH SABC OFFICIALS AND THERE IS AGREEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN OF BOARD PIET MEYER THAT INTERVIEW WOULD BE AIRED UNALTERED. SIMS CONFIDED THAT MEYER WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT WITHOUT CHECKING WITH "MEMBERS OF SAG".

5. IF IT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW, ASSUME AGENCY WOULD PREPARE 3/4" VTR AND 1/2" (3) COPIES FOR USE AS FOLLOW-UP BY USIS RSA POSTS.

6. IF TV INTERVIEW IMPOSSIBLE, NEXT-BEST WOULD BE RADIO INTERVIEW.

7. ADVISE.
HUGHES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 1983098
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH U.S. OFFICIAL
TAGS: SOPN, SF, (SIMS, GEOFF)
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Type: TE
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